

NEW KASHMIR SHAIVISM SERIES

The Abhinavagupta Institute of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is sponsoring a Kashmir Shaivism Series. This series will span approximately ten years in which the foundational Sanskrit texts of Kashmir Shaivism will be translated and critically edited. The texts of Kashmir Shaivism present a complete and comprehensive non-dualistic philosophy which provides a detailed outline for the practice of its particular Yoga.

The Institute has engaged a group of eminent international scholars to translate these ancient texts which have never before been available to the western world. In addition to the textual studies, the series will include introductory and interdisciplinary studies of Kashmir Shaivism. Here is a preview of the first four forthcoming titles:

DUE FALL 1990: The first book in the series provides a comprehensive overview of the system: *Kashmir Shaivism, the Central Philosophy of Tantrism*. Written in an introductory style, Dr. Kamalakar Mishra discusses Kashmir Shaivism in both the context of Tantrism and the wider context of the Indian philosophical tradition.

Dr. Mishra received his PhD at Benares Hindu University and is the author of another book which will be included in the series: *Significance of the Tantric Tradition*.

DUE FALL 1990: The second book is a collection of eleven articles by scholar Dr. B.N. Pandit entitled *Specific Principles of Kashmir Shaivism*. Each essay clarifies and discusses the foundational theological and philosophical principles of Kashmir Shaivism. This book addresses the general reader interested in Indian philosophical systems.

Dr. Pandit has also written *Aspects of Kashmir Shaivism* (Utpala Publications:1977) and *History of Kashmir Shaivism* (Utpala Publications:1989).

DUE SPRING 1991: Third is Dr. Navjivan Rastogi's translation of the Sanskrit text: *The Malinivijayottara Tantra: with Introduction, Translation and Annotation*. This text serves as the basis of Kashmir Shaivism's most important philosophical treatise, Abhinavagupta's magnum opus *The Tantraloka*. The *Malinivijayottara Tantra* discusses the theories of language, mantra, mudra, and diksa, deals with the fundamental question of the sense of existence, and describes the means of experiencing one's highest spiritual potential.

Dr. Rastogi is the pupil of the late K.C. Pandey, who pioneered the field of Kashmir Shaivism. He received his PhD from the University of Lucknow and is currently in charge of the Abhinavagupta Institute in Lucknow. Dr. Rastogi has

written several books on Kashmir Shaivism including: *The Krama Tantricism of Kashmir Vol. I* (Varanasi:1979); *Introduction to the Tantraloka* (Varanasi:1987); and co-authored (with R.C. Dwivedi) *Enlarged Edition of the Tantraloka* (Varanasi:1988).

DUE SPRING 1991: Lastly we will present the first in a series of three volumes of scholarship on Abhinavagupta: *Abhinavagupta and the Synthesis of Indian Aesthetics*, edited by Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam. As a collection of fifteen articles, this work discusses Abhinavagupta as the central theoretician of Indian aesthetics. The volume examines Abhinavagupta's conceptions of drama, poetics, and music, and it stands as the first instance of Abhinavagupta's aesthetic thought addressed as a whole.

Dr. Visuvalingam is also working on two other projects for Rudra Press: *Transgressive Sacrality in the Jewish Tradition* and *Abhinavagupta's Conception of Humor: Its Resonances in Sanskrit Drama, Poetry, Hindu Mythology, and Spiritual Practice*.

In order to oversee the Kashmir Shaivism Series, the Abhinavagupta Institute has invited international scholars to comprise the editorial board. Such scholars include (1) Dr. Michel Hulin (Sorbonne, Paris), (2) Dr. B. N. Pandit (Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth), (3) Dr. Navjivan Rastogi (University of Lucknow), (4) Dr. Raffaele Torella (University of Rome), and (5) Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam (editor-in-chief).

The Abhinavagupta Institute looks forward to introducing this series both to specialists and to the general layperson, and is pleased to announce that Rudra Press will be publishing the series in its entirety.